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"So This Is London!"

No. 4

(Republished from a special article written by the Editor for the Kinematograph, London, England)

RAY LEWIS

GERMANY crashed through the "Closed Gates of the American Film Market" by the force of the quality of her films: Undaunted by a War handicap which no other nation had to contend with, Germany is fast securing a world market for her films, a world recognition, not because the Film Interests of the World are extending a brotherly hand, but through the ability and capacity for work, the ambition to establish a German Film Industry and through this medium regain Germany's former trade, and prestige, her former popularity. England today has adequate film finance, world-wide publicity, with a Commonwealth of Nations extending their hands in friendly and British co-operation: Where is England's Film Hand Across the Seas?

In Canada, British Pictures have appeared in the theatres of the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, which is the dominant Film Interest in Canada, being ninety-five per cent Canadian-owned; and operating a chain of first class theatres from coast to coast.

Mr. N. L. Nathanson is the Canadian Managing Director. He and his group, including the Lieutenant-Governor, the Honorable W. D. Ross; Sir Herbert Holt, Major Andrew Holt, Sir William Wiseman, Mr. J. P. Bickell, Messrs. Tudhope and Shepherd, all keenly interested in the Canadianization of the Canadian Screens, and the establishment of a popular and profitable British Film Market in Canada, are the controlling interests of this company.

Special salesmen and publicity men have been engaged to exploit and publicize British Films in Canada; and it is mainly through the efforts of the Canadian Film Interests that a market for British Films has been made possible here.

England's contribution has been to fill the press with specially syndicated storied, anti-American film propaganda, which has not helped the British Film to sell to the exhibitor, or the public, but has fulfilled some excellent work for reformers who still believe that the Film Industry was begot in Sin and begets Sin.

When Premier Taschereau of Quebec put through his bill prohibiting children of sixteen and under from attending motion picture theatres, he had a sufficient number of speakers in the the House to quote from the press Anti-American Film propaganda, showing how the Films were demoralizing the youth of our land, making them American in speech and thought.
Films.

It is not that we cannot do it, but a case of lethargy, we are a race of "To-morrow doers," in respect to a British Film Industry. Our English producers are so busy watching the American Film market, in endeavoring to imitate American films, in searching for American directors who produced in America in the Film Year B.C., in signing up stars and players who have no market in America, in watching each other lest one producer really begins producing, or gets an idea ahead of the other, that Time goes on; and we still remain in the position of waiting for Royal Patronage, or Film Quota legislation to make the British Film Industry appear important.

British pictures have been released by many of the Independent distributing units of Canada, they have repeatedly appeared in every theatre across the Dominion, they are being advertised, exploited and sought for now. Can Canada buy British films from England direct? Let those English producers who refused to sell to Canada and sold to America, including Canadian rights, answer this question.

Ray Lewis

Ray Presents

THE SCENERY was wonderful, the shows were great, the ocean was salty, and I was sea-sick.

Some one has accused us, by us, I mean we Canadians of being Americanized.

SINCE visiting England I have wondered what being Americanized really meant. I thought England, externally observed, was as American as the continent of America!

In London I observed that the public moved less quickly, than they do on the American continent, that there were no skyscrapers, that high hats, spats, gloves and dignity were worn even in the sudden heat wave, but that London outside of these differences, might have been New York.

In London I noticed that theatres of the grade of the New Gallery, Regent Street, on a par with the Uptown, Toronto, or the Capitol, Palace, Montreal, charged 8S 6D; *about* $2.00 *for the best seats; and that the public received a moving picture entertainment, minus any frills, or prologue, or vaudeville for their money.*

BY THE WAY the New Gallery is equipped for sound pictures. The first I saw there was the Bernard Shaw Movietone, but the Fox News Reels with synchronization are on the regular schedule.

Returning to the question of Americanization, London reminded me of New York with the differences previously mentioned, not that London is any more of an index of England than New York is of the United States, but as these two cities relate themselves to the Show Business and Trade and Commerce, they are pretty much "It" and form a rather good basis from which to make deductions.

An Englishman coming to Canada ten years ago, returns to London, after having spent not more than ten weeks in ten years in the United States; and he is told that he has become Americanized. This same Englishman goes to New York and he is immediately pigeon-holed as an Englishman. What is the answer? Too fast for London, and too slow for New York; and yet a born Canadian, visiting New York and all parts of the United States at frequent intervals, having lived in the United States one, two, three, many years, in visiting London, is greeted with this kind of a salutation. "You are an Australian, are you not?"

I OBSERVED that the producers in England appeared to be happy over the Film Quota. It has given them Finance and Play Dates, they state; and with the increase of Play Dates in the United Kingdom they are not worrying over American Distribution. The British Empire is the objective, with American Distribution later on as "velvet."

Gilda Gray is at Elstree. "Piccadilly" is the title of the picture in which she is to be starred. Dupont is directing, Freund is handling the camera. The opinion in England is that the names and potentialities should be box-office. Personally I do not see any advantage to English Films in the importation of Gilda Gray, so many women are wriggling beautifully and seductively in drawing rooms that Gilda's glory has been over-challenged.

I WISH that the English producers would "look before they leap" in the matter of players. We are having some English Films for release in Canada with players, featured players, I mean, which are proving a handicap to the productions, which would have registered had there been a greater wisdom in the selection of the cast. Forget the "has beens," and try some virgin soil, figuratively speaking!

I HAVE a letter from Mrs. P. Tyas, manager of the Liberty Theatre, Amherstburg, Ont. I am republishing her letter in full because it contains some information which English producers could absorb to advantage.

Nothing would give the Editor greater pleasure than to "Hurrah" editorially and otherwise about British Films, but if there is one thing which annoys a Britsher more than any other it is a situation which forces an acknowledgement of inferiority. I have scolded and advised so often that I am very happy to be able to let someone else present the advice. Mrs. Tyas' letter is as follows—

LIBERTY THEATRE

Amherstburg, Ontario

July 7, 1928.

Ray Lewis,
Canadian Moving Picture Digest,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Madam:

Having noticed from time to time what a strong advocate you are of British films being popularized in this country, and agreeing with you up to a certain point I feel impelled to point out two grave mistakes, to my mind at least, which have been made in two recent British films.

I refer particularly to the hero of "The Flag Lieutenant," who although proving his heroism in the finish is more or less of a "bounder" all through. Breaking in on serious matters with idiotic remarks and the general behaviour of a "born natural." Culminating in a situation where the harassed officer in command of a post surrounded and besieged by Arabs, ammunition gone, and at his wits end calls upon the officers of the relieving force for some suggestions, Dicky Lascelles (the hero) pipes up, "I have it —— lunch," whereupon he produces a mangy parcel wrapped in old newspaper containing some bologna sausage and bread, sits down and eats it, to the well-merited disgust of the anxious officer in charge.

In "Roses of Picardy" why, oh, why, should the major in charge of staff-headquarters be depicted as a kind of "Old Bill" with walrus moustaches and followed everywhere with an enamel mug of beer? A man of so little breeding and manners that when the baron and baroness (whose chateau has been commandeered in their absence) return, explains "Well marm — the pen being mightier than the sword these days, etc.," without even rising from his lolling position in her own arm chair to greet the baroness. I call particular attention to the language in which the captions are couched.

Had these occurred in American productions it could have been ascribed either to ignorance, or a willingness to gain a laugh by a bit of "cheap comedy," but in an English production no such excuse can be offered.

These things grate on English nerves. We know such conduct is not that of an officer and a gentleman, but this knowledge does not make it easier to endure the snickers around us from those who take these as true pictures of our naval and military officers.

Can you understand why English producers should make the members of these two grand services objects of ridicule? I'll admit it's beyond me.

Yours very truly,
(Mrs.) M. P. TYAS

Al Jolson Signs Contract For Vitaphone Productions

An event of importance in the field of talking pictures is revealed in an official announcement this week from J. L. Warner that Al Jolson has signed a long term contract to star in Vitaphone productions for Warner Bros.

In spite of the fact that his first picture, "The Jazz Singer," was the box-office sensation of the year and that the star is now at work on his second vehicle, "The Singing Fool," up to this week Jolson had not committed himself regarding his future screen activities. His contract with Warner Bros., however, now provides for his remaining in pictures permanently.

Earnings Famous Players Give Company Strong Position

Earnings of Famous Players Canadian Corp., for the fiscal year ending August 31st, will show an increase over the past year, it is reported.

Common shares will earn from one to two dollars per share, it is expected. The position of the company financially is strong, there being no bank loans and substantial cash balances.

Warning!

The Name Vitaphone is a registered Trade Mark owned exclusively by The Vitaphone Corporation, which is owned One Hundred per cent by Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc.

No one is permitted to use the word "Vitaphone" except in connection with the product leased from the Vitaphone Corporation or Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc.

Anyone using the name Vitaphone in any other connection infringes this Trade Mark and will be proceeded against accordingly.

THE VITAPHONE CORPORATION.

H. M. WARNER,
President.

John Maxwell Controls First National Pathe Ltd.

Chairman of British International Pictures Ltd., Returns To London.

John Maxwell, chairman of British International Pictures Ltd., has acquired for his company the controlling interest in First National Pathe Limited.

He is at present en route to London and is accompanied by Joseph P. Kennedy, who but recently resigned his directorship of First National.

"Jaydee" Williams has a deal with British International Pictures Ltd., whereby he secured the distribution rights for America exclusively. The new arrangement is probably one in which "Jaydee" is interested.

Sometime ago it was reported that Educational would distribute British International Pictures Ltd. in America. Mr. Earle Hammons, president of Educational is rumoured as the promoter of the Maxwell-First National Pathe tie-up, and it is through his financial aid and influence that the World-Wide Pictures, Inc., has been so healthily launched on the American Continent. It is quite likely that the Canadian Educational organization, under the directorship of Oscar Hanson, will handle the British International Films. Incidentally, Mr. Hammons also made a deal with Vocafilm sometime ago for the control of the company's patents.

"The Leader of the Band"

THE INDUSTRY was recently electrified by interesting headlines which recorded the sale of Warner Bros., Pictures and Vitaphone, to Adolph Zukor for the sum of $20,000,000.

No confirmation of the announcements has been forthcoming, save that Warner Bros. are widely advertising that they still hold the control of Vitaphone and Warner Pictures; and that they are proceeding with production, distributing, installation plans as usual.

The sale of Vitaphone, Vitaphone which is the forerunner of all the Motion Picture Talking sensation, or in other words which is the Leader of the Band, would be a piece of news of interest to the Industry at large.

It appears that Vitaphone leads in the procession of talking mechanics; and it is because of the phenomenal success which some of the Vitaphone presentations registered that the Industry and the public became interested in making pictures talk, in synchronization.

Warner Bros. certainly started something, which the entire Industry is endeavoring to get in on.

Various comments have been made in connection with the life of the "talkies," their possibilities, potentialities, their relationship to Motion Pictures; and their effect, and reaction on the public and the Industry.

The reaction of the Industry is registered in the fact that all producing companies are entering seriously into the business of "sound pictures"; and the press is keeping alive the interest of the public.

How long the public, which after all is the box-office god, before which the Industry can have no other gods, will respond, is not a question which is at present concerning the Industry.

The attitude is get the money while the getting is good; and no phase, or angle, whether it is in production, in rental, or on the stock exchange is being overlooked in making Talking Motion Pictures, "sound" like big money.

The fairy tales have an angle about them which introduce "we shall see what we shall see."

Those of us who live long enough shall see what we shall see in respect to "sound" films, meanwhile if it is advisable to follow the adage "when in Rome do as the Romans do," it might be advisable in our Industry to follow the majority, and do as the majority do, but with this reservation do I voice such a sentiment, experiment conservatively, let your pictures sing more than they talk; and when they talk let the talking be of the grade of the quality which we find in the best of our dramas, and incidentally, but of supreme importance, keep on making silent pictures.—Ed.

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Entirely New Projector Principle.
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You should know about this marvellous new projector. It will be the next you will buy. Full description on receipt of a post card.

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Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc. Not For Sale!

Do not be misled by what salesmen for other companies may tell you! Our Product will only be sold through our own sales organization.

WE HAVE felt greatly flattered by the many reports that have filled the press regarding the sale of Warner Bros. and Vitaphone Corporation to other organizations.

All this has emphasized Warner Bros. outstanding leadership. For it is obvious that people do not seek to buy failures.

However we feel that this institution is much more than a personal business. You have had a vital part in creating Warner Bros. success. And this we recognize as an obligation not to be lightly cast aside. As we did not fail you in the days of struggle, we WILL NOT fail you in the days of success. Therefore to all who are in any way concerned, we wish to say emphatically and publicly—

WARNER BROS. PICTURES, Inc., and VITAPHONE CORPORATION ARE NOT FOR SALE

Warner Bros. Pictures, Inc.

By* H. M. Warner, *President

August 24, 1928

Eva Le Gallienne In M-G-M Talking Films

The Drama's Most Progressive Star to Appear in Dramatic Sketches Assisted by Civic Repertory Company.

Eva Le Gallienne, founder and director of the Civic Repertory Theatre, has signed a contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer to appear in talking motion pictures, according to an announcement last week. Miss Le Gallienne's arrangement to co-operate with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in its project to bring together in one sound program outstanding representatives of the different branches of dramatic art is in line with her recent declaration that she believes firmly in the potentiality of the talking motion picture in carrying true standards of dramatic fiction to the far corners of the country.

Miss Le Gallienne has achieved a unique position in the dramatic life of the country by her work in popularizing classic productions in repertory at popular prices and it was felt by officials of M-G-M that no individual could bring more of the combination of dignity and dramatic achievement to the sound picture field than Miss Le Gallienne.

Le Gallienne's First Motion Picture.

Although this will be Miss Le Gallienne's first appearance before the moving picture camera, screen tests were dispensed with in her case, because of the unique combination of voice and pantomime whch she has displayed throughout her acting career from the days of "Not So Long Ago," "Liliom," "The Swan," her revivals of Ibsen, and finally, during the last two seasons, her noteworthy productions at the Civic Repertory Theatre in Fourteenth Street.

Miss Le Gallienne, as a representative of legitimate drama, will be identified with representatives of the musical stage and of grand opera in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's group program in sound. It will be recalled that the Pictorial Review gave her the award for the most distinctive creative work contributed by a woman to American life in the year 1927.

Dramatic Sketches For Screen.

Dramatic sketches which Miss Le Gallienne will make for the talking motion pictures, assisted by members of her Civic Repertory Company, will be chosen by her in conference with the producer from the repertory of the plays in which she appears at the Civic Repertory Theatre and from the sketches which she presented last month at the Palace Theatre in New York. Work will begin in a studio in this city shortly, in order that it may be completed before Miss Le Gallienne begins rehearsals of her company for its third season. As in the cast of her brief appearance in vaudeville, Miss Le Gallienne's contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer were arranged through Hermine Shone.

Percy Williams' Fame Reflects Upon Industry

Mother of World Famous Sprinter is Cashier, Capitol Vancouver, B.C.

All the sport world has been talking of the achievement of Percy Williams, the Canadian school boy, in winning both the 100 and 200 metres sprints at the Olympic games in Amsterdam. Exhibitors and film exchange officials in Vancouver, B. C., are particularly interested because Mrs. Charlotte Williams, mother of the world famous sprinter, is cashier of the Capitol Theatre, Vancouver.

W. P. Wilson, manager of the Capitol, and other moving picture men of Vancouver, have prepared to give Percy Williams a special reception when he returns home.

"Ramona" Tin Lizzie For Advertising Stunt

Manager C. S. Ferguson of the Capitol Theatre, Brandon, Man., has been getting excellent results from his "Capitol good will car," which has been touring the country adjacent to Brandon for some weeks. The car is an antiquated Ford, painted pink with yellow and green trimmings — and christened "Ramona."

The Capitol Good Will Car travels about the country wheezily for exploitation purposes, its one-man crew distributing advertising on current attractions, tacking up cards and placing one sheets in empty windows. The gaudy and decrepit machine has become a familiar feature on the roads of Manitoba and everybody knows it now when they see it. A similar but less ornate car is also used by E. P. Fields of the Capitol Theatre, Moose Jaw, Sask.

"CARRY ON SERGEANT" SHOWN AT RUNNYMEDE

"Carry On Sergeant," the Canadian Bairnsfather film, was slipped into the program of the Runnymede Theatre, Toronto, unadvertised.

Bairnsfather made a brief announcement, and Torontonians had an opportunity to witness the film which has been so much discussed. Digest review in the next issue.

Mayor H. H Stephens Favors Falls Movie

Proposal Before Commission To Project Motion Pictures On Niagara Falls.

H. H. Stephens, mayor of Niagara Falls, has placed a proposal before the Niagara Falls Park Commission to project Motion Pictures on Niagara Falls, American side.

The projection machine is to be placed in Victoria Park, Canadian side; and the throw could be about 800 feet.

Mayor Stephens has been assured that technically the scheme will work.

Back To Nickelodeum Nickel Movies For Broadway

Van Dyke Hill, president of the Dramagraph Motion Picture Corp., promises pictures in three dimensions, operated through slot machines on Broadway.

A nickel in the slot and you see a film in color. General news and sports events will be the first program; and later on shorts and features.

Mr. Hill in an interview stated that his company would build a number of small theatres, penny arcades modernized and that the slot machines would be installed there.

Mgr. Drohan Stages Own Theatre Convention

A. P. Drohan, manager of Griffin's Theatre, Chatham, Ontario, took advantage of recent lull in hot weather business to stage a theatre convention of his own. The whole staff of the theatre was assembled for a conference and every detail of management, operations, plans and prospects was discussed with projectionists, ushers, cashiers, janitor and others.

United Amusement Rights Have Increased Present Value

United Amusement Corporation in 1927 issued $1,500,000 six per cent first mortgage bonds carrying "rights" of holders to purchase four shares of common for each $1,000 bond at $25 per share.

The earnings of this company for the past ten months, ending in June, has shown considerable increase over the earnings for the previous fiscal year; and it appears that the "rights" have now an increased value which would make them profitable to take up.

This company is reported as having substantial cash balances; and in back loans. United Amusement Corporation operate a chain of twelve theatres in Montreal.

The Famous Players are reported as financially interested.

Plans for M-P.T.O. Convention Are Developing a Popular Programme

Social and Business Committees Being Organized With Full Civic and Theatre Cooperation to Make Canada's Convention Register Big.

"DIGEST" readers will undoubtedly be interested in hearing about plans that are being made for the business and social program under way for the forthcoming convention of the M. P. T. O. A. of America, to be held in Toronto at the King Edward Hotel on October 16th, 17th, and 18th, 1928. In July, Mr. R. F. Woodhull visited Toronto during the eastern convention of Famous Players' managers and was most favorably impressed by the city and those interests engaged in motion pictures. He and Mr. O'Toole are enthusiastically working at their end to make the convention a huge success. Arrangements are being made to have more than 2,000 guests and members here; and in co-operation with Mr. Powell of the Toronto Tourist and Publicity Bureau, they are sending literature from time to time that is both instructive and interesting to members of the M. P. T. O. of Canada.

Colonel Cooper Co-operates.

Sometime ago, Colonel Cooper wrote an open letter that was published in the "Digest" setting forth very clearly the aims and object of the meeting and urging members and friends to co-operate in every possible way to make the visit of our guests a memorable one for every one concerned. Since that time, there have been several meetings in Toronto presided over by Mr. J. C. Brady, the President of the M. P. T. O. of Canada, whose energy and initiative have done so much to further the interests of all theatre owners in Canada. Co-operation is to be the watchword of all committees and workers, who have pledged themselves to leave nothing undone to make this October gathering not only a business success, but a social one as well. An interesting entertainment program is being arranged; every effort will be made to look after visitors from the United States and Canada so that they will go home with the very best possible impression both of Toronto and of the Film Industry of Canada.

Committees Are Appointed.

At a general committee meeting held recently, chairmen of several committees were appointed. Mr. J. C. Brady is chairman of the general committee; Mr. Sam Major, treasurer; Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Mr. Harry Sedgwick; of the Reception Committee, Alderman Summerville; Finance Committee, Mr. Harry Alexander; Secretary of the Convention, Miss Laura Elston; Literature is being prepared, with a view to giving complete information about the purpose of the convention; and the arrangements which are being made here, and this information will be sent from time to time to all the members and friends of the Association. Personal invitations are ready for mailing; and it is hoped that every Canadian theatre owner will take advantage of this splendid opportunity to visit Toronto in the interests of the Industry at large; and in his own interests as a theatre owner.

Sound Pictures To Open Palace Theatre, Montreal

This week will see the introduction of "sound" or "Talking Pictures" at the Palace Theatre, Montreal, this theatre being the first of the Famous Players Canadian Chain to introduce the "Talkies" in Canada.

GUS EDWARDS TO ASSIST IN SOUND PRODUCTION AT CULVER CITY

Returning to Los Angeles after a trip to New York to confer with Eastern executives regarding sound pictures, Harry Rapf, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer producer, announced the signing of Gus Edwards, prominent theatrical producer and song writer, who will now play an important part in the production of sound and talking pictures at the Culver City studios.

Edwards will leave New York soon for the coast, where he will devote all his time to the creation of new musical compositions and supervision of scenes in films involving cabaret or musical comedy sequences.

During his recent trip east Rapf began negotiations with a number of stage stars, and it is expected that many interesting contracts will result.

Christie Gets Famous Colored Stories For "Talkies"

Al Christie has secured the famous Octavus Roy Cohen stories of colored life in Birmingham which have been running to huge popularity in the Saturday Evening Post for the last fifteen years and published in book form with enormous circulation, for the filming of talking pictures. They will be released by Paramount.

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Premier Taschereau Attitude Hostile To Moving Picture Theatre Owners?

Prime Minister of Quebec States "We Shall Continue To Apply The Law" — Court Decision Prohibits Prosecutions For Children Admittance To Theatres.

Premier Taschereau issued a defiance to Theatre Owners in answer to the court prohibiting the prosecution of Theatre Owners for the admittance of children under sixteen to theatres.

The Prime Minister of Quebec, on learning of the court's decision is reported as follows: "The theatres may continue to admit children under sixteen, we shall also continue to apply the law."

This will mean that there will be a string of charges in the recorder's court held up by endless writs of prohibition secured later in the Superior Court.

Lieutenant-Governor Must Ratify Law.

This condition will continue until the Lieutenant-Governor has ratified the law, which Premier Taschereau introduced; and this action will nullify the writ of prohibition in its application to the law which Theatre Owners are contesting so vigorously.

Lord's Day Act.

Meanwhile the Lord's Day Act is still in obeyance. If the Act is upheld it will be Premier Taschereau as Attorney-General who will have the authority to enforce it.

A new angle is the political stir up which the Taschereau-Theatre Owners conflict has developed.

Press Friendly To Theatres.

The Press, friendly to the Theatre Owners, are editorially commenting about Montreal's autonomy, the Quebec interference, raising just the same powerful opposition which defeated the Taschereau adherents in 1923.

January May See Solution.

There appears to be no opportunity to clear up the children's admittance situation until the legislature is in assembly in January, abolishing writs of prohibition applicable to the law barring children under 16 from attending Motion Picture Theatres, and empowering Premier Taschereau to enforce the law which at the present time is practically non-functioning.

CAPITOL-METROPOLITAN WINNIPEG, MAKE ROOM FOR "SOUND" PICTURES

The Capitol will make a change in its operating room in order to instal the Movietone, while the Metropolitan will accomodate itself to the installation of Vitaphone.

A new organ will also be introduced into the Capitol, the present one going to the Famous Players Theatre at Saskatoon, Sask.

IF standard equipment and parts is what you want at prices you can afford to pay, together with service only a large, complete organization can give

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61 ALBERT ST. Phone AD. 4837 TORONTO

"The Sentinel" Toronto Runs Picture Editorial

"The Sentinel" of Toronto published an editorial headed "Roman Catholics and the Motion Picture."

In commenting on the power of the screen, the article went on to say: "Over ninety per cent of our Motion Pictures are made in the United States. The mental domination exerted by Hollywood has given Great Britain and every British Dominion cause to think. These films exhibited in Manchester, Capetown, Melbourne, or Toronto all reflect modes and manners of the United States. (If I were not a lady, I would say "Blah!")

The editorial further elucidates as follows. "No organization is more alive to the influence of the Motion Picture than the Roman Catholic church. No organization is treated with more respect by the film producers than the Roman Catholic Church," and then the article expounds, "William Fox, the Jewish head of the Fox Film Corporation, produced a film of the Eucharistic Congress at Chicago which he presented to Cardinal Mundelein."

Ten Quebec Theatres Have Writs Held Up

Justice Weir Suspends Law Prohibiting Children Under Sixteen From Movies.

Ten theatres in the Province of Quebec have had writs of prosecution against them stayed by the judgment of Justice Weir, who suspended the law prohibiting children under sixteen from attending Motion Picture Theatres.

Eight additional writs of prohibition to restrain the Recorder's Court from hearing charges against theatre managers were granted by Justice Weir.

The cases stayed are as follows: Leo Vardec, Amherst Theatre; Harold Vance, National; Nicholas Lazanes, Lord Nelson Theatre; Antoni Capendites, Cameo Theatre; Peter Viotti, Rex Theatre; Oscar Valade, Theatre Canadien; Alphone Basteen, Alexandra Theatre.

Justice Weir's decision definitely states that the Recorder's are restrained from hearing the present charges against the various theatre managers and from hearing any subsequent charges that may be laid until the constitutionality of the law passed, known as the Taschereau Children's Bill, is definitely decided. This order enables theatre owners to admit children without fear of prosecution.

Two years is likely to elapse before the final judgment may be handed down concerning the validity of the Taschereau law.

Skeleton History of Motion Pictures

Dates Back to 1558

Exhibitors, producers, fans and critics will be interested to glance at this outline history of Motion Pictures.

The last twenty years covers a period that is quite familiar to a large percentage of theatre-goers who regard sound pictures as just another achievement in the progress of a business that has been termed a mushroom growth.

It may surprise many to realize that even Motion Pictures are hoary with age and tradition!

A skeleton history of the evolution and development of photography from its primitive beginnings in 1558 to the present advanced stage when even an amateur can record the scene before him in color photography has been recently completed by the Science Service of Washington and is as follows:

1558—Giovanni Battista della Porta described camera obscure.

1823—Nicephore Niepce made permanent pictures by action of light on bitumen.

1833—W. G. Horner devised the zeotrope or wheel of life.

1839—January 1. Daguerre in France and Fox Talbot in England announced photographic processes.

1840—Sir John Herschel introduced glass plate negatives.

1840—Professor John W. Draper of the University of the City of New York made first photographic portrait in America.

1847—Schonbein and Bottcher, Swiss chemists, made cellulose nitrate, now used for photographic film.

1850—Frenerick Scott-Archer used collodion emulsion.

1855—Dry plate process invented.

1860—Sir John Herschel suggested possibility of motion pictures on the principle of the thaumatrope toy.

1869—Ducos du Hauron and Chs. Cros pointed out possibility of color photography.

1871—Dr. R. L. Madox prepared gelatine emulsion.

1872—Edward Muybridge photographed running horses by a battery of twenty-four cameras.

1778—Frederick E. Ives invented half-tone process.

1884—Stripping film patented by Eastman Company.

1885—Rev. Hannibal Goodwin invented the celluloid film.

1887—Dr. E. J. Marey of French Academy made motion pictures with single lens on celluloid film.

1888—Kodak box camera taking round pictures of 2½ inches in diameter marketed.

1889—First pocket Kodak invented.

1891—Gabriel Lippman showed in Paris color photographs by wave interference.

1893—Thomas A. Edison patented kinetescope.

1893—L. H. Baekeland invented Velox daylight printing paper.

1894—Alexander Black produced first photoplay by blending separate photographs in succession.

1895—C. Francis Jenkins' gave public demonstration of phantascope, projecting life-size motion pictures from film.

1895—Roentgen discovered X-ray photography.

1897—Professor Joly of Dublin used lines ruled on plate in red, green and blue.

1897—Frederick Ives of Philadelphia invented the stereophoto-chromoscope.

1911—Coronation of King George V shown in the kinemacolor of Chs. Urban and George A. Smith.

1912—Leon Gaumont in Paris projected motion pictures in three colors with three lenses.

1914—Panchromatic motion picture film marketed.

1923—Camera and projector for amateur motion pictures produced by Eastman Kodak Company.

1928—Color motion pictures for amateurs demonstrated by an American Kodak Company.

"SMASHING THROUGH" TRADE SHOW ON CANADIAN SCHEDULE

The trade show of the Gaumont British film, "Smashing Through," directed by Mr. W. P. Kellino, has now been arranged to take place at the London Hippodrome on Tuesday, September 11th, at 3.15 p.m. John Stuart, Alf Goddard, Eve Grey and Julie Suedo are the featured players, and this production, which is a very worthy successor to Mr. Kellino's last film, "Sailors Don't Care," is equally thrilling with its race scenes and quite as effective in the fun contributed by Alf Goddard, Mike Johnson and Gladys Hamer. "Smashing Through" is one of the releases on the schedule for release in Canada.

Jesse Lasky States "Sound" Pictures Will Prevail

Jesse L. Lasky, Vice-President of the Famous-Lasky Corp., states that "in five years there will be no silent pictures."

It is stated that there are now four hundred theatres in the United States from New York to Los Angeles equipped for "sound."

Pictures for Austalia Hoyts Theatres Close Deal

Key Centres New Zealand Included — Ninety Theatres On List.

Pathe Pictures are assured general showings in the leading theatres of Australia and New Zealand through the terms of one of the biggest deals ever made for the distribution of motion pictures in the Australasian territory, just consumated by William M. Vogel, General Manager of Producers International Corporation, foreign distributors of Pathe pictures, with W. A. Robbins, New York Representative of Hoyts Theatres, Ltd.

This transaction means that Pathe pictures will play first runs in all key cities, as well as the other best theatres controlled by the Hoyt Organization numbering over ninety houses throughout Australia and several others in New Zealand.

Hoyts Theatres, Ltd., already constituting the largest chain of theatres in Australasia, are now erecting a number of new houses, the latest one to open being the magnificent Regent in Adelaide. The Hoyt theatres are located in all the principal cities of this vast territory including Brisbane, Adelaide, Newcastle and Perth. Typical Hoyt theatres are the Regent and Hoyts in Sydney and the Hoyts in Melbourne.

The directors of Hoyts Theatres, Ltd., are Sir George Tallis, G. F. Griffith, F. W. Thring, J. H. Tait and F. Challingsworth.

New Theatre For London Moran & Sons Get Contract

James Moran & Sons, of London, Ont., received the contract for the erection of a new theatre for W. L. Stewart, formerly owner of Patricia. Plans were prepared by H. C. McBride.

The theatre is to be built in the Hamilton Road near the corner of Egerton Street, and will measure 50 feet wide by 140 feet long.

The construction will be of steel, concrete and brick. Two stores will occupy the front portion of the building.

Natural History Museum Group to Film Caribou Herds

A committee representing the Natural History Museum of New York will visit the Barren Lands, about 500 miles north of Reindeer Lake, with the intention of filming in color, the caribou herds on their northern migration the latter part of October; and to add to the dramatic value of the film by staging a bow and arrow caribou hunt with Indians as the hunters.

Zukor Co-Operates With French Film Industry

Paramount Famous Lasky Corp. To Distribute "Soul of France" in U. S. and Canada.

Paramount Famous Lasky Corporation has acquired the rights to distribute the French picture, "The Soul of France," for the United States and Canada, it has been announced by Adolph Zukor. The picture, which is the first ever to be made on the actual battlefields of the Great War, will be synchronized with music and sound effects and will be distributed in the next group of Paramount productions.

Paramount already has distributed the picture in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Egypt and Holland, and has obtained the rights for its distribution in Australia, New Zealand, Dutch East Indies and Brazil.

"Distribution of 'Soul of France' in America," said Mr. Zukor, "is a striking example of the manner in which our company intends to co-operate with the French film industry. I consider this picture one of the greatest that has been made in France, and in giving it widespread distribution we are indicating to French producers or any other European film companies that when they make good pictures they need have no fear about reaching the American market."

"The Soul of France," which already has been widely acclaimed in France and England under the title, "La Grande Epreuve," was produced by Jacques Haik and directed by Alexander Ryder and A. Duges. With the co-operation of the French government, more than 20,000 French troops of all branches of the service were used in many scenes of the production, which were photographed on the actual battlefields of the war, such as Verdun, the Marne, Mount Cornilley, Tahure, Mailly and others. Military experts in Paris and London who have viewed "The Soul of France" declare that its battle scenes are the most authentic of any picture produced to date.

The episode of the tragic Trench of Bayonets, where many poilus were buried alive at their posts, forms an interesting feature of the picture and was produced under the direction of Lieutenant Foucher, one of the three survivors. The first bugler in the Armistice episode is Corporal Sellier, who actually was the man who blew the first Armistice bugle, at the command of Marshal Foch. Another interesting sequence shows the cadets at St. Cyr, the famous French military school.

The leading roles in the production are taken by M. Desjardins and Madame Desjardins of the Theatre Comedie Francaise, Jean Murat, George Charlia and Michele Verly.

Peter B. Kyne Calls Producers Grabbers

Sold Same Story Twice To Company Who Did Not Know It — States "I Turned Jewish Myself To Do It."

Peter B. Kyne, author of outdoor and sea stories, is credited with an interview in the Toronto Star Weekly in which he is reported as saying that he gets quite a kick "putting one over on them."

"Them" meaning the producers. He was asked if it was hard to sell scenarios and his reply was "not if you're sharp. I've sold about fifty, I believe, and of these I was able to recognize perhaps six in their screen form, and that largely because they had credited them to me on the celluloid.

At that I hold a record because other writers have never been able to recognize theirs at all, they tell me. On two occasions I turned a little Jewish myself and actually sold the same story twice to the one company. They never knew the difference.

Film Companies Jealous.

Some more quotations from Peter B. Kyne's interview are, "The film companies are as jealous of one another as rival bathing beauties. If you stop submitting stuff to the A. firm they'll immediately set a spy on your trail to find out if you're making better terms with the B. outfit."

Interview Has Jewish Accent.

Mr. Kyne then proceeded to relate a story about a producer of comedies. The article appears in many places to have quite a Yiddish accent; and might lead one to infer that "Peter," though he states he likes Canada sufficiently to invest a good deal of money in a ranch and cattle business in Alberta, apparently does not like the Jewish producers of our Industry whom he calls "sordid dollar grabbers with their third-rate, machine-made story plots." He also prophecies that the day is coming when men of artistic instincts will replace "the money-grabbers," "and then we will have Motion Pictures that aren't an outrage to every decent human instinct and ideal"

Funny Jewish Story?

One of Kyne's supposedly funny Jewish stories related to Abe Stern, "who spat at a nearby cuspidor as he remarked," "From the very title it's a flop, Sam," referring to a picture called "The Pinnacle," which he had been called in to view. "For why did you call it the Pinochle. There ain't a deck of cards in the whole picture. You should be consistent." "Now that," concluded Mr. Kyne, "is a very apt illustration of the kind of thing we are fighting in Hollywood. These are true stories. Hollywood is exceedingly lowbrow. A combine of producers whose mentality is about on a par with that of the morons they cater to has a strangle-hold on the film business. How long this is to continue rests with you and me and the better class public generally — just stay away from the movies for a while and watch these producers getting busy in a frantic effort to bring us back. It's our money they are angling for. Let us force them to earn that money by making good pictures."

Editor's Note.

"I think the Industry should immediately arrange with Peter B. Kyne to purchase a number of stories from him, as a reward for his sincerity of expression; and the excellent publicity he has given our business. Our Jewish producers should add cigars and liquid refreshments for his special consideration of them.

"As for the Editor of The Digest I think that Peter Kyne, if the Toronto Star Weekly has reported him accurately, is not an ordinary fool, but a damn fool; and if our Industry salves Kyne up by buying his stories, it will surely be an indication that our Industry is lowbrow!"

Loew and Universal Combine Ownership

Fifty-fifty Partnership Arrangement For Million Dollar Theatre.

James A. Carrier has been transferred to the managership of the Uptown Theatre, Kansas City, Mo., from the Capitol Theatre, Atlanta, Georgia, according to announcement from Fred A. Flader, General Manager of the Universal Chain Theatrical Enterprises, Inc. Fred G. Wilson will continue at the Capitol Theatre as acting manager. Loew takes over the operation of this $1,000,000 theatre on a partnership arrangement with Universal on September 1st.

Martin Finkelstein, formerly assistant manager of the Kansas City "U" Chain, will become supervisor of their suburban Kansas City houses. These include the Isis, Apollo, Gillham, Gladstone and Lincoln Theatres.

One of the most important supporting roles in Paramount's screen version of W. Somerset Maugham's play, "The Letter," is to be played by Claude King, stage and screen veteran. "The Letter" is to go into production in the near future as an Evelyn Brent and Paul Lukas featuring vehicle.

TORONTO THEATRES

UPTOWN — Manager Nelson Shea — "The Michigan Kid" — Universal — With Conrad Nagel and Renee Adoree in an excellent version of Rex Beach's story. This production is one of the red blooded type of Alaska dramas that Rex Beach does so well and of course there is a thrilling fight and a big forest fire that provide a stirring finish. The gold rush days in Alaska have been productive of many film dramas but none better than "The Michigan Kid," telling as it does the story of the small town youngster who wants money enough to win his boyhood sweetheart, goes to Alaska to get it and achieves his ambition by running a gambling saloon. His mind always on winning his ideal woman, "the Michigan Kid" has apparently unbreakable luck at the tables but cares nothing for the female adulation that he can and does receive. Just as he expects to give up his northern career and return to the States and to his girl, a man starts a fight and wounds another person in the gambling hall. "The Kid" prevents him from going to jail, saves him from disgrace and sends him back to his mining job when he discovers that he is going to marry the girl back home. The stranger turns out to be a boyhood rival and from this point on the interest is more than keen. Conrad Nagel as the "Kid" is a steely eyed, firm jawed hero with a fine and undeviating love; Renee Adoree always charming and wistful, appears to excellent advantage as the girl who realizes before it is too late, the weak character of the man she has chosen to marry and is saved from him by flood and forest fire. Adolph Millar is the weakling and gives an excellent portrayal of this type of villain. The picture is well made, directed by Irvan Willet, and the acting is excellent. The dance hall scenes are not overdrawn and there are not too many of them. "The Michigan Kid" is a good picture, one that all sorts of fans will like; the fight scene towards the end of the production is one of the most realistic shown on the screen in some time.

LOEW'S — Manager Jules Bernstein — "The Mysterious Lady" — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer — With Greta Garbo and Conrad Nagel. This picture is one of the continental spy stories with a large dose of fervid love thrown in, capably acted by the principals and a good supporting cast. John Gilbert was first spoken of for the role opposite Miss Garbo, but Conrad Nagel proves an ardent and altogether charming Austrian officer. Karl von Raden is a captain in the Austrian army and becomes infatuated with a beautiful woman who meets him, accidentally? at the opera; the young officer is a nephew of the Chief of Secret Service and very close to high diplomatic circles. Tania, the woman in the case, is in reality a Russian spy and her job is to extract information from her conquests. In the case of Von Raden the matter is complicated by the fact that she really falls in love with her victim and her work with her former lover, Boris, head of the Russian Secret Service, becomes doubly hard. Plans supposedly given Tania by Von Raden are discovered and the latter is disgraced, court marshalled and thrown into prison. Escaping, he follows Tania to Russia disguised as a musician, wins her love again and is saved by her devotion to him rather than to the man who loves her but in whom she is not interested. The climax is reached when Tania dramatically shoots Boris to save her lover's life and liberty; the ending is happy; the production is well made by Fred Niblo with an excellent Metro cast, including Gustav Von Seffertitz, and several familiar actors. Greta Garbo is ravishingly beautiful; her gowns are dreams and every woman will love them; the men will probably love her. She manages to carry a great deal of this picture herself and is developing into a thoroughly capable actress. Conrad Nagel is one of the screen's best bets, and will win new admirers in his role of an Austrian officer. "The Mysterious Lady" ought to be a fair box office attraction everywhere.

SHEA'S HIPPODROME — J. C. Appel, Manager — "Home James" — Universal-Jewel — Laura LaPlante in a typically flippant, up to the minute, farce that is just one laugh from start to finish. There is nothing very new about the story of "Home James," but it is a refreshing bit of comedy by one of screendom's most fetching actresses. The story is the familiar one of a rich man's son posing as his own chauffeur winning the love of a girl working in his father's store, who has come to the big city to get away from disagreeable step relations. The comical situations are well done, and no matter how much exaggeration appears in spots, the picture is calculated to please everybody. Laura LaPlante is developing her already large bump for farce-comedy and her smiles are so infectious that audiences fall in love with her quite as readily as does the hero. The picture is directed by William Beaudine from a story by Gladys E. Johnson. Charles Delaney is a very satisfactory hero and the rest of the cast is adequate. Joan Standing, Aileen Manning, George Pearce, Arthur Hoyt and others are in the cast. "Home James" is excellent late summer movie fare.

PANTAGES—Manager Fred Shafer — "The Patent Leather Kid" — First National production, with Richard Barthelmess in one of the greatest roles of his career, supported by Molly O'Day and an excellent cast. This stirring, thrilling picture, a real epic of the prize ring was shown at the Regent Theatre last spring and is packing them in this week at the Pantages, where it is showing with a big vaudeville bill.

TIVOLI — Manager Tom Daley — "Mademoiselle From Armentieres" — The Gaumont-British picture with Estelle Brody, continues this week at the Tivoli, where it is playing to good houses and getting very favorable comment from press and public.

"Nanook of the North" Heroine Is Dying

Exhibitors throughout the world will probably hear with regret that Maggie, the heroine of "Nanook of the North," is dying in her tiny tent in the Eskimo Camp at Port Harrison, in Northern Canada, according to a radio message received from an exploration expedition in Hudson's Bay. Maggie was reported to be dying from the effects of an injured spine, despite the efforts of a medical officer attached to the expedition.

It was largely due to Maggie's quaint beauty and her natural ability that "Nanook of the North" proved such a film success. The schooner which sent the message left St. John, N. B., on July 12 and only recently called at Port Harrison to establish a supply base when the condition of the Eskimo woman was learned.

Publix Entertainment Opens At Capitol, Montreal

Famous Players are arranging to present the Publix unit of entertainment as introduced in the United States, at the Capitol, Montreal, beginning the week of September 14th.

Round About the Studios

A decision has finally been reached on a title for the Richard Arlen-Nancy Carroll back-stage story now nearing completion at the Paramount studios. It will be called "Soubrette." Miss Carroll has the title role.

Others in the cast are Paul Lukas and Lilyan Tashman. The story is by Ernest Vajda, with adaptation by Ethel Doherty. Dorothy Arzner is directing.

Commander Richard E. Byrd evidently intends to beguile the long polar nights during his forthcoming expedition with selected bits of cinematic comedy. Among the first group of motion pictures chosen, along with a complete set of projection equipment, for the Byrd expedition are six Hal Roach two-reel comedies. They are, by name, "The Light That Failed," "The Call of the Cuckoo," "Love 'Em and Feed 'Em," "Fighting Fathers," "The Battle of the Century," and "Pass the Gravy."

Russell Simpson, who portrayed the role of Caleb Gare in the Tiffany-Stahl production, "Wild Geese," has been engaged by that company to play the role of "Singapore Joe" in a Jack London story now being filmed under the direction of Elmer Clifton, starring Patsy Ruth Miller and Malcolm McGregor.

George Duryea will play a young wastrel and Phyllis Haver his dad's stenographer in "Office Scandal," which Ralph Block will put into production at Pathe Studio shortly. Edward H. Griffith is to direct this story from an original by Adelaide Heilbron.

The direction of Edmund Cobb in "Dodging Danger," a two-reel Forest Ranger picture, has been completed by Director Doran Cox, according to an announcement by Carl Laemmle, president of Universal Pictures Corporation.

Polly Moran and Harry Gribbon will have featured comedy roles in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's "Honeymoon."

Irene Rich, appearing in Warner's "Powder My Back" and "Beware of Married Men."

"Mickey's Movies," the first of the new juvenile series being made by Larry Darmour for FBO, went into production. The series are based on Fontaine Fox's internationally famous cartoon strip. The same cast of youngsters that appeared in the first "Mickey McGuire" series have been cast in the new series.

Charlie Chaplin's next United Artists picture, "City Lights," is in the making.

Production of "Ridin' Leather," starring Bob Curwood, has started at Universal, according to an announcement by president Carl Laemmle. This is one of a series of two-reel Westerns which are being made under the supervision of William Lord Wright. Lotus Thompson is enacting the feminine lead.

Edward Sedgwick, whose directorial vehicles include "Spring Fever," and "West Point," and who has just completed Buster Keaton's new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film, "The Cameraman," will direct the second in the series of comedies which Keaton will do for this company.

John Gilbert and Joan Crawford in M-G-M's "Four Walls."

"Avalanche," Paramount's next Jack Holt-Zane Grey production, went before the cameras at the Hollywood studio. The picture gives Baclanova, popular Russian player, her first real American role, that of a dance hall girl in a "Western."

Lawford Davidson, well known "heavy" of the screen, who provided villainies in "The Patent Leather Kid," "Cheaters," and other plays, will serve in this capacity in Tim McCoy's new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer vehicle, "Humming Wires."

Al St. John, long a favorite with Short Feature comedy fans, is back in the initial Mermaid of the new season, "Call Your Shots." St. John is cast as an author who dons rough garb in order to gather atmosphere for his new novel among the gangsters of a big city. The kidnaping of a rich girl, the role played by beautiful Estelle Bradley, and a hair-raising sequence on the top of a sky-scraper provide many of the best laughs of the picture.

Conrad Nagel, appearing with Greta Garbo in M-G-M's new feature, "The Mysterious Lady."

Chester Conklin, now definitely established as a dramatic actor as well as a comedian, has just been given a strong supporting role in Clara Bow's next Paramount picture, "Three Week Ends," from an original story by Elinor Glyn. Conklin's first important dramatic part was in "Varsity," the forthcoming college picture which will introduce Charles Rogers to stardom.

Tiffany-Stahl Productions announces that Eddie Cline has been signed to direct Sally O'Neill in "Applause," a story of New York and the stage.

Associate Producer Paul Bern of the Pathe Studios in Culver City has borrowed F. Hugh Herbert from Paramount to write the original story and continuity of "Noisy Neighbors." This contract renews Herbert's association with Bern who handled much of his work at M-G-M, notably "Her Cardboard Lover" for Marion Davies, "Romance" for Greta Garbo, and "Adam and Evil" for Lew Cody and Aileen Pringle.

"King of the Mountains" is the title of John Barrymore's next United Artists Picture, that film which Ernst Lubitsch is directing. The story is adapted from "Her Koenig der Bernina," by the late Jacob Christoph Heer.

Monty Collins, who made a name for himself in Mermaid and Cameo Comedies last season, is featured in "Polar Perils," another Mermaid. Collins takes a flight by airplane in search of the north pole, this venture providing introduction for some highly realistic sequences in Eskimo-land. Stephen Roberts directed the picture.

Arthur Housman, whose specialty is heavy roles with a comedy angle, has been added to the cast of "Sins of the Fathers," Emil Jannings' next Paramount production. The addition of Housman brings the list of principals in the Jannings picture up to five. Barry Norton, Jean Arthur and Ruth Chatterton will also be seen in support of the German star. Ludwig Berger is directing.

2 of the Six Best Pictures of the Month are Pathe Features

James R. Quirk, Editor of Photoplay, gives PATHE top honors in "The Best Pictures of the Month." 6 winners selected. TWO OUT OF SIX ARE PATHE HITS--four for all others combined. "CRAIG'S WIFE" and "POWER" chosen from hundreds of films as supreme entertainment.

WILLIAM BOYD in the Ralph Block Production

"POWER" with JACQUELINE LOGAN and ALAN HALE

"This picture is classed as one of the best of the month for no particular reason except that it keeps you laughing throughout.

Bill Boyd again appears as a humanly humorous smart aleck, which seems to be the type the public demand of him. This time Boyd and Alan Hale are teamed as "two-fisted workers on both dams and feminine hearts." They swing back and forth over the highest."—Photoplay.

IRENE RICH with WARNER BAXTER in

"CRAIG'S WIFE"

"William De Mille gives a brilliant picturization of a Broadway success, completely avoiding spectacular melodrama and forced situations. It starts quietly enough, but with a sure, smooth tempo, builds to a tensely dramatic finish. The director has surpassed himself in his unique power to portray the intrinsic drama of the ordinary human frailties."—Photoplay

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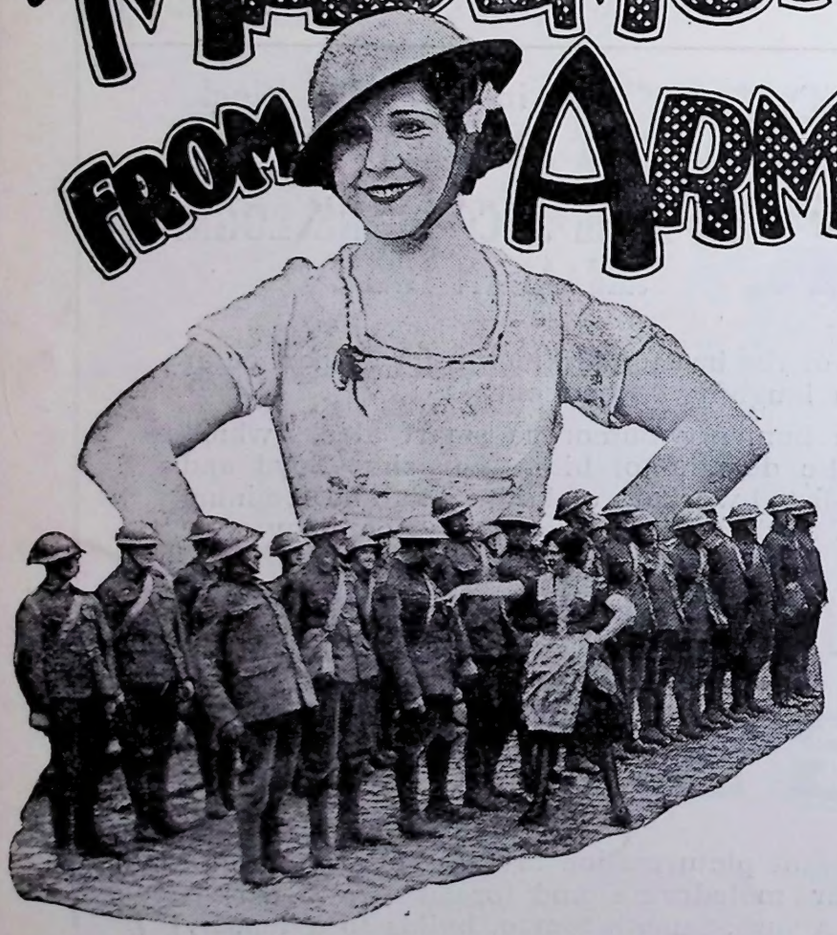

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